



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2006

For more information, please contact:
Fran Rudig (414) 278-4244

Statement by Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker in response to the County Board Finance and Audit Committee's passage of a \$60 million sales tax proposal.

"The majority of the County Board still doesn't get it. This is a \$60 million Pension Tax and not a Parks Tax. Without a change in the fringe benefit levels for the county, all of this money will go to cover the pension payment."

"Taxpayers know that the problem is not that we are taxed too little by the county; the real problem is that the money is wasted on some of the highest fringe benefits in the country. If we can fix that problem, we will fix our budget challenges."

(The pension fund obligation for the 2007 budget is \$59,544,000 as estimated by the actuary for the Employee's Retirement System. A .5% sales tax increase would generate approximately \$60 million. The referendum proposed in the county board resolution is advisory and would still require action by the State Legislature and Governor - as well as elected county officials.)

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